

IV. 16 Aug 72

NORTH VIETNAM

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HANOI BROADCASTS ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY RAMSEY CLARK

Statement Before Leaving

Hanoi in English to Southeast Asia 2000 GMT 14 Aug 72 B

[Text] Before leaving Hanoi for home last Saturday, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark had this to tell to our overseas listeners. [follows recording]

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[It is] 2 weeks now that I have been in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, I traveled in many countries. I've been on nearly all the continents. I've been throughout the Western Hemisphere and Africa, every country in Europe, much of the rest of the world. Most people are hospitable and friendly, but I must say my reception here was amazing.

I am an American, I always will be. America is fighting a war with this country and its people. American bombers have bombed the cities and the villages. Yet, in all this time, all these days, busy days and nights in cities and villages, driving down the road well over a thousand kilometers between villages and cities, and many more kilometers than that within villages and cities, thousands and thousands of people, millions of officials at city level, and the provincial level, the national level, the cop on the beat [words indistinct] literally, the little children everywhere, I haven't seen an angry look, I haven't heard an unkind expression. I have been received--a stranger, and a foreigner--with friendship and generosity.

Of course, most didn't even know I am an American. All they knew is that I'm a strange-looking, whiteskinned, tall, skinny person. But, I think you could see that the people in this country have reason not to particularly love people that look like me. Yet, I believe they do. As a [word indistinct] throughout the country, people at all levels, women, children, mayors, high government officials have said: Never doubt that our people can distinguish between the American people and the leadership that wreaks the violence that causes death here. Our people love the American people, I've been told. We believe the American people love freedom, independence, and peace, and that's what we love. I think they tell the truth.

It's sad to see the damage here. I've seen more death and destruction in my life than a person (?can ask for). I saw the destruction in Western Europe in World War II. I went throughout such countries as Poland, Germany, France, and England, Belgium and Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, and Russia right after the war. I saw cities laid in waste. I saw the ruins of Tokyo and ~~Hiroshima~~ in 1948, although much had been rebuilt in Tokyo by that time. I've seen war damage on three continents in smaller wars, in what we've called wars of liberation and colonial wars.

But this is different here, because here you have two people so vastly different--the United States, rich and powerful, technologically advanced, with enormous capacity to destroy through technology; the people's Democratic Republic of Vietnam, a poor country, a proud country, a country that has seen for the first time really, as far as I can tell in its history, great progress in recent years, but still, admittedly, a poor country, a country without massive technology, a country with barely a tenth of the population of the United States. And yet, you see here an indomitable spirit, no question about it. You see that the terror of the bombing, the horror of the bombing, and the death of the bombing [word indistinct] redoubles the determination of the people to fight on.

We conclude from that that the bombing is not only inhumane, and there is no greater need for mankind, if you have to survive, than (?new) humanism. The bombing is not only inhumane, it is stupid. It must cease, it only prolongs violence. It cannot overcome this country. This country is 95 percent rural. You cannot bomb these people into submission, you'll only make them more determined than ever. Because, the reasons that they'll have to explain to the world: They believe their cause is just. [Recording ends]

That was a statement from former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

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## Impressions of Thanh Hoa

Hanoi in English to Southeast Asia 1530 GMT 10 Aug 72 B

[Text] Here is the news from the "Voice of Vietnam." Clark and his visit to the Province of Thanh Hoa about [words indistinct] miles from Hanoi, from (?) August to 9 August. Here is the lawyer Ramsey Clark to give you his impressions [words indistinct]: [follows recorded male voice with American accent]

The (?first) impression that I get from this trip, I believe, is the enormous contrast between peace and war. Umm, last night and yesterday afternoon and this morning we (?spent) in a beautiful and peaceful little village of 2,900 human beings. The village has been there for more than 500 years; they call it (?Phu Min). You can see the great progress that people are making there, you can see the pride that they have and the quality of their lives. You can see the health of the children and the love of the families and the productivity of the land, the growth of education and opportunity.

Here I am, a wonderful experience for me to be able to spend that time in the village. We spent it in six or seven different homes of families and were received with great friendship and generosity on, on each occasion. Then this morning, in the sharpest contrast, we, we saw what war is, and what it does. We visited a hamlet, [words indistinct]. This hamlet had been heavily bombed, 23 of the people killed, their plantations bombed. They were beginning to rebuild and the dikes were lined with people and carts bringing lumber and other building materials in to rebuild homes.

You can see not only the devastation to the land and the homes, the farm areas and the rice paddies, but you can see the suffering etched in the faces of the people. You can see how they wondered how this could possibly happen to their peaceful village. But suddenly, at 3:00 am one morning, without any warning and by people they never knew and will never know, umm, be bombed into oblivion.

So I believe this province shows, as few others perhaps, the terrible contrast between war and peace. It also shows that the indomitable spirit of people can never be overcome. This was apparent in both villages. In the village of (?Phu Min) which had not been bombed we could see all the enormous energy and [words indistinct] the people to build a land 10 times more beautiful, but among those in the village that had been bombed we were met by two young sons who were orphaned by the bombing--one 16 years old, one 15 years old--we could find this fierce determination to carry on until there is a time of freedom and independence acceptable to the people. [Words indistinct] been a reality of what you've seen, you've a much deeper meaning to what you believe, and umm, to come from reading, seeing pictures and hearing about [words indistinct] from others who've been there, one has to be deeply impressed with the people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

I have wondered, umm, for many years, what it was that (?created) such a [words indistinct] spirit, determination to prevail. What, umm, what it was that, that drives the people of this country through all these long [words indistinct] hard tortured years of war, and how, in spite of the suffering and hardship and death, they seem to grow stronger and more determined.

Having been here and visited in a number of the provinces and seen the major cities [words indistinct] have travelled over a thousand kilometers, umm, between cities and villages by now; walked the streets of the cities alone and with others; walked the pathways of the villages and along the dikes and canals alone and with others; watched the people and talked with them to the extent that I've been [words indistinct] speak English.

I have to, umm, believe that, umm, the determination of the people, (?strengthens) the people and comes from their conviction that this land and these people are served by their government; that there is justice and equality here. My experience tells me that, umm, [words indistinct] told (?Aristotle) that the chief and universal cause of the revolutionary impulse is the desire for equality. You see no internal conflict in this country. I've seen none. You feel unity in spirit. I doubt very seriously that I could walk in safety in Saigon or the cities and villages of South Vietnam, as I have here, because of, umm, the division, the confusion and the lack of faith and belief there. And I think the people here have seen progress in a short period of time. I had a talk with, umm, an older man and a woman [words indistinct] who (?tried) to describe how much better the (?kids) of her children were being educated than they were as children. How much better health service in the cities and villages are, than they were at the time that the older people were young. The older people, people my age, and [words indistinct] had known hunger in the past, uncertainty about the future and the children of this time have this paradise [words indistinct], so I guess, it seems to me that, umm, the people here believe. They believe in the righteousness of their purpose and that [words indistinct]. [male voice with American accent fades out as announcer's voice returns]

You have just listened to impressions given by U.S. lawyer Ramsey Clark after his visit to the bombed areas in Thanh Hoa Province.